



## TESTIMONY FOR HB0549 Fair Wage Act of 2023

**Bill Sponsor:** Speaker

**Committee:** Economic Matters

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

**Person Submitting:** Cecilia Plante, co-chair

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0549 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of individuals and grassroots groups with members in every district in the state with well over 30,000 members.

Our members strongly supported the Fight for \$15 legislation during the 2019 legislative session, but were disheartened that business profits won out against everyday workers when the minimum wage was delayed and many categories of workers were cut out. This bill pulls the \$15 minimum wage forward by two years for all covered workers. Additionally, it indexes the minimum wage, starting in 2025, to the Consumer Price Index and caps it at 5%.

We applaud this bill and hope that it is not weakened this time around. History has shown that a higher wage DOES NOT harm small businesses. However, it does help the overall economy because workers have more wages to spend.

We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.